

**ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY**

**ORGANIZAÇÃO DA
UNIDADE AFRICANA**



**ORGANISATION DE
L'UNITE AFRICAINE**

منظمة الوحدة الأفريقية

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**MEETING OF THE AFRICAN
ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES
5 – 7 February 2002
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia**

AAL/Rpt (I)

**FINAL REPORT OF THE MEETING OF
GOVERNMENT EXPERTS ON THE
AFRICAN ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES**

**DRAFT FINAL REPORT OF THE MEETING OF GOVERNMENT
EXPERTS ON THE AFRICAN ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES
5 -7 FEBRUARY 2002, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

1. The meeting of Government Experts to examine the Statutes establishing the African Academy of Languages was held at the OAU Headquarters from 5-7 February 2002, pursuant to Decision CM/Dec.613 (LXXIV) adopted by the 74th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers held in Lusaka, Zambia in July 2001.

2. In attendance were delegates from the following Member States: Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya Madagascar, Malawi, Mali Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia. The representatives of UNESCO, Organization Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) and Sumner Institute of Linguistics (SIL) and members of the Scientific Consultative Committee were also present. The list of participants is annexed to this report.

Opening

3. The Opening Session was marked by the welcome address made by Prof. C. Johnson, Acting Director of the Community Affairs Department (OAU/AU) and the statement of the Malian Minister Mr. Adama Samassekou, Interim President of the African Academy of Languages. The full texts of the two statements are also attached to this report.

Election of the Bureau

3. The meeting then elected its Bureau as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| - Chairman | - Mozambique |
| - 1 st Vice-Chairman | - Nigeria |
| - 2 nd Vice-Chairman | - Libya |
| - 3 rd Vice-Chairman | - Madagascar |
| - Rapporteur | - Congo |

Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work

5. The Agenda and Programme of Work of the meeting are annexed to this report.

scheduled to take place in Durban, South Africa, in July 2002, a Draft Declaration of Solemn Commitment.

Item IV: Establishment of the Academy (time schedule)

11. Owing to the difficulty in determining the date of entry into force of the Statutes and, therefore, the actual date of take-off of the Academy, fixing the Implementation Calendar for the Institution was postponed. The Provisional Presidency of the Academy, in consultation with the OAU General Secretariat, would propose an appropriate calendar.

Item V: Adoption of the Final Report and Recommendations, and Closing Session

12. The Experts then examined and adopted the report of the meeting. They also discussed and adopted the Draft Recommendations annexed to this report.

13. The Closing Session was marked by statements by the representative of the OAU General Secretariat, the Interim President of the Academy and the Chairman of the meeting. They expressed satisfaction at the successful conduct of the deliberations and thanked the participants for their quality contribution.

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**MEETING OF THE AFRICAN
ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES
5 – 6 February 2002
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia**

**Annex I
Rev.2**

**DRAFT STATUTES OF THE AFRICAN
ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES**

**DRAFT STATUTES OF THE AFRICAN
ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES**

PREAMBLE

The Member States of the Organization of African Unity/African Union;

RECALLING Decision CM/Dec.613 (LXXIV) adopted by the Council of Ministers meeting in its Seventy-Fourth Ordinary Session in Lusaka, Zambia, in July 2001, which decided the establishment of an African Academy of Languages;

CONSIDERING that the promotion of African languages forms an integral part of the objectives of the Organization of African Unity/African Union and has been spelt out in the Cultural Charter for Africa (1996), the Linguistic Plan of Action for Africa (1986), the Harare Inter-Governmental Conference (1997) and the Decade of Education in Africa (1997 – 2006);

RECOGNIZING the fact that illiteracy constitutes a factor likely to hinder development in the Continent, and **AWARE** that languages contribute to the economic, social and cultural development of peoples;

ALSO AWARE of the role which languages can play in the process of African integration as a factor of peace, understanding and conflict prevention;

Have agreed as follows:

Article I
Definitions

For the purposes of these Statutes,

- a) **“Academy”** shall mean **the African Academy of Languages**;
- b) **“Academician”** shall mean **member of the African Academy of Languages** as provided for by Articles 16, 17, 18 and 19 of these Statutes;
- c) **“Accountant”** shall mean **Accountant** as provided for by Articles 32 and 33 of these Statutes;

- r) **“Chairman of the Board”** shall mean **Chairman of the Board of Directors**;
- s) **“Secretary General”** shall mean **Secretary General** as provided for by Articles 28 and 29 of these Statutes;
- t) **“Structure of Origin”** shall mean State, private or independent structure;
- u) **“AU”** shall mean **African Union**.

PART I: ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ACADEMY

Article 2
Establishment

It is hereby established, under OAU/AU auspices, a Pan-African Scientific Institution to be known as “African Academy of Languages” (ACALAN). It shall have its Headquarters in Bamako, Republic of Mali.

Article 3
Objectives

The primary objectives of the Academy shall be to:

- a) promote African Languages ;
- b) promote crossborder vehicular languages;
- c) strengthen linguistic co-operation among African States;
- d) promote African Languages at all levels of education;
- e) propagate African Languages at international level;
- f) analyse language policies in Africa;
- g) promote scientific and democratic culture;
- h) enhance harmonious economic, social and cultural development of African countries;

- m) redefine African languages/partner languages relations;
- n) mobilise resources for language research;
- o) disseminate information on language research.

Article 5 **Activities**

1. The Academy shall engage in continuous brainstorming on all matters relating to African languages in general, and crossborder vehicular languages in particular, by:

- a) providing pertinent opinion at the request of public authorities, communities and research structures;
- b) commissioning of studies,
- c) formulating and following up on recommendations of meetings;
- d) promoting crossborder African vehicular Languages at international level;
- e) exchange of views and information with foreign institutions pursuing similar objectives;
- f) controlling application of linguistic standards.

2. The Academy shall also institute and award prizes and honours to Organizations and individuals who contribute to the promotion of African Languages.

PART III: POLICY BODY AND ORGANS OF THE ACADEMY

Article 6 **Organs of the Academy**

The Organs of the Academy shall be :

- 1. The Board of Directors;
- 2. The Scientific and Technical Committee;
- 3. The Presidency;
- 4. The Language Commissions.

Article 11
Decisions

The Board shall take decisions by a simple majority of the members. Each member shall have one vote: in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a casting vote;

Article 12
Chairman of the Board

The Chairman of the Board shall be elected by his peers by two-third majority for two (2) year term. Chairmanship of the Board shall be rotational among the regions, according to an order to be determined.

Article 13
Quality of Members

The Committee shall be composed of reputable men and women of science and culture, who shall be nationals of Member States of the OAU/AU.

Article 14
Composition

The Academy shall be made up of:

- Academicians,
- Associate Members, and
- Correspondent Members

Article 15
Mode of Appointment

1. Members of the Academy shall be elected by their peers at the level of the Language Commission;
2. Candidature proposals shall originate from Members of the Academy, higher research and educational institutions or other reputable African scientific and cultural bodies. The authorities of Member States shall transmit the proposals to the Presidency of the Academy.

CHAPTER II: THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Article 19
Sessions

1. The Academicians and the President shall meet once a year in ordinary session at the Headquarters or in any other Member State. However, at the request of two-thirds of its Members, the President of the Academy shall convene an extraordinary session on specific agenda which shall be communicated to all Member States at least one month in advance.
2. The President of the Academy and the Academicians shall have the right to one vote.
3. A sitting allowance shall be paid to the Academicians.
4. The Specialized International Institutions and any other such Organizations or resource persons whose participation is deemed necessary, may be invited to participate in the sessions of the Academy.

SECTION II: ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Article 20
Composition

Associate Members comprising at most two (2) persons per language Commission and per country concerned by the language, shall be renowned African scientific personalities working in their respective structures of origin.

Article 21
Functions

1. The Associate Members shall:
 - a) participate in the meetings of the Commission and in all such activities of the Commission as require their presence;
 - b) study such issues as shall be referred to them and freely give opinion thereon;

Article 25
Functions of the Presidency

1. The Presidency of the Academy shall be the Organ for the Academy's moderation, management and direction;
2. The members of the Presidency shall exercise permanent functions remunerated according to the salaries of the OAU Specialised Agencies.

SECTION I: THE PRESIDENT OF THE ACADEMY

Article 26
Mode of Appointment of the President

1. The President shall be elected by the General Assembly by two-thirds majority and shall be appointed by the Board for a four (4) year mandate renewable only once. The mandate of the President may be terminated on the grounds of misconduct adversely affecting the proper functioning of the Academy.

Article 27
Functions

1. The President shall be the legal representative of the Academy.
2. He shall perform the following functions:
 - manage the affairs of the Academy.
 - be the Accounting Officer of the Academy, and may delegate this power to the Secretary General.
 - implement the directives of the Board and shall be responsible to the latter.
 - prepare the Draft Rules of Procedure of the Academy .
 - prepare the Programme of Activities, the Financial Report and the Report of the Academy.
 - attend all meetings of the Board and act as its Secretary.

- a) collate and disseminate the results of the linguistic research;
- b) co-ordinate the training programmes of the researchers;
- c) ensure conservation and preservation of documents and set up a data bank;
- d) be responsible for production and translation of publications of the Academy in the common crossborder languages and in the partner languages;
- e) be responsible for publication of the Newsletter of the Academy;
- f) act as Secretary General in the absence of the latter.

SECTION IV: THE ACCOUNTANT

Article 32

Mode of Appointment of the Accountant

1. The Accountant shall be elected, upon the proposal of the President, by the General Assembly by two-thirds majority and appointed by the Board after vacancy announcement.

Article 33

Functions

The Accountant shall be responsible for bulk and cost accounting. He shall be in charge of keeping the accounts of the Academy. He and the President shall be co-signatories of all accounting documents.

CHAPTER IV: LANGUAGE COMMISSIONS

Article 34

Composition and Functions

1. The Academy shall set up a Language Commission for each common crossborder language.
2. The Language Commissions shall constitute the working structures of the Academicians and members of the Academy.
3. Each Language Commission shall be composed of a maximum of two (2) Academicians and two (2) Associate Members per country

Article 38
Interim Structure

1. Following the adoption of these Statutes by the Member States, and pending their entry into force, the OAU Secretary General/Chairperson of the Commission of the AU shall, in close collaboration with the host country, take all necessary measures to appoint the requisite staff and put in place an interim structure with a view to facilitating speedy establishment of ACALAN pursuant to the provisions of these Statutes.
2. For the initial set up of the Academy, the provisional Presidency of the Academy, with the support of an Ad Hoc Commission, shall propose to the Board a list of the prospective Academicians, Associate Members and Correspondent Members.

PART VII: FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 39
Amendments

1. These Statutes may be amended by the Board if the Chairman of the Board of Directors notifies all Member States in writing at least three (3) months prior to the session of the Council convened to decide on the proposed amendment.
2. The amendment shall come into force upon adoption by at least two-thirds of States Parties.

Article 40
Signature, Ratification and Accession

1. These Statutes shall be open to signature, ratification and accession by Member States of the OAU.
2. The Instruments of Ratification of and Accession to these Statutes shall be deposited with the Secretary General of the OAU/Chairperson of the AU Commission.
3. The Secretary General of the OAU/Chairperson of the AU Commission shall transmit certified true copies of these Statutes as well as information regarding its signature, ratification and accession to all Member States.



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Annex II

**MEETING OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS TO PREPARE
THE MINISTERIAL MEETING ON THE AFRICAN
ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: 5-6 February 2002

DRAFT AGENDA

- Opening
 - Election of Bureau
 - Adoption of the Agenda and Organisation of Work
1. Presentation of the African Academy of Languages
 2. Consideration of the Statutes of the Academy
 3. Establishment of the Academy (modalities, financial resources, activities and time schedule)
 4. Broad Guidelines for Linguistic policies and linguistic research priorities in Africa
 5. Any Other Business
 6. Adoption of Final Report and Recommendations
 7. Closing.



Annex III

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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